

DSM-IV DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA

The following are the diagnostic criteria from the DSM-IV for 312.31 (Pathological Gambling):

- A. Persistent and recurrent maladaptive gambling behavior as indicated by at least five of the following:
 - 1. is preoccupied with gambling (e.g., preoccupied with reliving past gambling experiences, handicapping or planning the next venture, or thinking of ways to get money with which to gamble)
 - 2. needs to gamble with increasing amounts of money in order to achieve the desired excitement
 - 3. has repeated unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back, or stop gambling
 - 4. is restless or irritable when attempting to cut down or stop gambling
 - 5. gambles as a way of escaping from problems or of relieving a dysphoric mood (e.g., feelings of helplessness, guilt, anxiety, depression.
 - 6. after losing money gambling, often returns another day in order to get even ("chasing" one's losses)
 - 7. lies to family members, therapist, or others to conceal the extent of involvement with gambling
 - 8. has committed illegal acts, such as forgery, fraud, theft, or embezzlement, in order to finance gambling
 - 9. has jeopardized or lost a significant relationship, job, or educational or career opportunity because of gambling
 - 10. relies on others to provide money to relieve a desperate financial situation caused by gambling
- B. The gambling behavior is not better accounted for by a Manic Episode.

American Psychiatric Association. (1994). Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition. Washington, D.C.: Author.